national importance. The President of the Indian Historical Records Commission at the last session also alluded in his address to the importance of acquisition and preservation of private records.

However, the question of purchase should arise only as a last resort and this should be made clear in the Resolution. In the first instance, efforts should be made to pursuade the owners to donate their records. National Archives of India has already built up a large collection of such papers by donation. But when all such efforts fail, it should be possible to give the owner some monetary inducement, or compensation, for which the state Governments should provide funds. However, Government of India can hardly be requested to trnsfer funds to State Governments for such purposes.

(M) Setting up of Archival Cell in the Universities

(13)(a) Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

(b) Resolution by Shri F.M.Hassnain

(a) "Resolved that every University should have an Archival cell of its own manned by a properly trained and professional Archivists, and that the State Governments as well as the University Grants Commission should make suitable grants to the Universities for the purpose. The University Grants Commission in particular is requested to pay its attention to the Minutes of the University Grants Commission Advisory Committee of Vice-Chancellors held on 3rd December, 1970 on this point."

(b) "Resolved that it may be made binding upon all Universities to organise their archives office on scientific lines so as to preserve important records, data and statistics."

Explanatory Note (a)

It has been resolved (vide Resolution No. 14 of 38th Session of the Indian Historical Record Commission that every University should have its archival cell. But it is regrettable that only two Universities (Delhi & Aligarh as far as information goes) have established their archival units. Madras University is desirous of establishing such a cell but needs proper financing by the University Grants Commission. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh turned down the proposal of Allahabad University for establishing a separate University archives of its own. Magadha University also appears to be inclined to have its archival unit. But the Universities of Calcutta & Bombay which are one of the oldest Universities appear to have taken no initiative in this direction. The subject, therefore, needs to be taken up again with emphasis.

Explanatory Note (b)

Most of the Universities in the country do not have well organised record offices and important records, data, and statistics are left at the mercy of the untrained clerks with the result that at the time of requisition for such documents, the student and the candidates have to suffer. As such, it may be made binding upon all the Universities to organise their record offices on scientific lines to be managed by trained archivists. Previous resolutions in this regard have not borne tangible results.

Standing Committee's views:

Resolution XIV of the 38th Session (1967) recommended that Universities be requested to entrust the care of their

records to officers who had training in Archives Keeping and also to maintain them on scientific lines as a separate entity. This was reiterated by the Commission at its 48th Session (1970).

Indian Universities have in their control not only their own University records but also bequeath of family papers, historical documents and manuscripts in different languages. Some Universities e.g. Delhi, Aligarh, Berhampur, no doubt, have set up their own archival cells while the Universities of Bangalore, Magadh, Bombay and Burdwan have welcomed the Resolution and promised to take necessary steps in this behalf. Many have failed to appreciate its intent and purpose, reporting that they do not have records of historical importance or they are concerned with archives. The Osmania, Lucknow, Allahabad, Madras Universities have stressed the need for financial help to give effect to the Resolution. But the general tendency is to deposit such archival items in the University Libraries. The permanent correspondence of the Universities since their inception needs to be assembled in one place. Historical documents like copper plates, farmans, parwanas etc, gifted to the Universities are useful for historical research. Oriental manuscripts in various languages are again valuable for advanced studies in history, linguistics, sciences and literature. All these need to be properly listed and catalogued by the University Archivists and their staff. It is significant that in several Western Universities whole time Archivists are appointed for this work. As modern printed books are not equivalent to archives, an ordinary

Librarian is not competent to look after the archival assets. For this reasons the University archives should not be tagged on to the University Library. The University should, therefore, set up their own archival departments to safeguard, preserve and utilise such important holdings. As these items are likely to perish in the temple of learning by neglect, these Resolutions appear important & timely. It is necessary, however, to amalgamate the two Resolutions into one,, and to rephrase it.

(N) Transfer of duplicate copy of records to the University from the National Archives of India

(14) Resolution by Dr. K.S.Lal

"Resolved that in order to give a new fillip to research in the universities, and to save time and money of scholars, one copy each of such records as are available in duplicate at the National Archives may be transferred to such universities as are prepared to take the responsibility of preserving and maintaining them for being consulted by research scholars."

Explanatory Note

At the National Archives the Rajasthan Agency Records, which are of immense value for scholars working on the Political and Cultural History of Rajasthan, are lying in duplicate/triplicate. Such records could conveniently be transferred to the University of Jodhpur for which the Vice-Chancellor has already requested and given assurance for their proper upkeep and preservation under expert supervision. Copies of relevant correspondence enclosed.